mining/production of coal.

(b) Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL) Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) have manpower more than the requirement. Similarly, SCCL and TISCO have also reported about surplus manpower.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply given to (a) above.

Strike in Singareni Collieries Company Limited

2755. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited have ended the strike;

(b) if not, what are their demands; and

(c) the steps taken by the management to improve the working conditions of underground miners in Kothagudem area for better negotiations with the trade unions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) The Management is implementing all statutory provisions under the Mines Act, Mines Rules and Coal Mines Regulations to improve the working conditions in underground mines in Kothagudem areas.

Mining of Coal dust in Tindharia, Siliguri

2756. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that unbridled primitive rathole mining of coal dust in Tindharia (Darjeeling) on way to Siliguri, not only endangers flora and fauna in the area, but also threatens the township, which happens to be the headquarters of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway;

(b) whether this mining of coal dust has been going on for many years without any licences in the encroached forest land; and

(c) if so, whether Government have not taken any steps to stop this illegal mining which is responsible for buying alive more than 20 persons and gradual sinking of land of Tindharia Bazar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) The question raised by the Hon'ble M.P. pertains to alleged coal mining in Tindharia in Darjeeling, which is not within the nationalised coal mines operated by any of the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL). The State Government of West Bengal have been requested to provide information on this subject which has not been received. The same will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

कोल इंडिया लि॰ में कार्यरत महिला कर्मकारों के लिए वैकल्पिक उपबंध

2757. **श्री दारा सिंह चौहान:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या कोल इंडिया लि॰ में महिला कार्मिकों के लिए यह वैकल्पिक प्रावधान है कि उनके स्थान पर उनके जवान लड़के काम कर सकते हैं और क्या अन्य कोयला कंपनियों में भी ऐसा प्रावधान है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकारी अधिकारी विशेषकर भारत कोकिंग कोल लि॰ और सी॰सी॰एल॰ के अधिकारी ऐसे आदेशों की खुलकर अवहेलना कर रहे हैं?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय): (क) कोल इंडिया लि॰ द्वारा दी गई सूचना के अनुसार कोल इंडिया लि॰ तथा उसकी सहायक कंपनियों में महिला कामगारों के स्थान पर उनके जवान लडकों को